

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. The amendments to the claims contain no new matter and are supported by the entire specification, including the drawings and the claims.

Claims 2-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 2-13.

The Examiner indicated that claims 15-20 are allowable. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 15-20.

Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tschegg (U.S. Patent No. 5,496,130).

This rejection is moot for the following reasons.

The Examiner indicated that dependent claims 2-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 1, and claim 14, which depends from claim 1, are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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